



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)*

Vol. 19 No. 27

**LORD’S DAY 05 JULY 2015**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Isaiah 66:22-23

Psalm 63:1-4

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 82 – *“This Day at Thy Creating Word”*

RHC 434 – *“Savior, More than Life to Me”*

*Opening Prayer \**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 119:137-152

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 119 verses 137-144*  
(to the tune of Vox Dilecti, RHC 298)

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*Announcements & Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 422 – *“Follow On”*

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*Scriptural Text*

Colossians 3:22-24

John 17:4

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*The Christian in the Workplace*

*Fulfilling your Life Purpose*

*Closing Hymn \**

Insert – *“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”*

RHC 433 – *“Am I a Soldier of the Cross?”*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* Congregation Stands

#### **THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE**

The Lord is in His holy temple,  
The Lord is in His holy temple:  
Let all the earth keep silence,  
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -  
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen, Amen.

#### **THE LORD BLESS YOU**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,  
and give you peace, and give you peace;  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,  
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

**Church Theme 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b**

# **THE ELEMENTS OF A REFORMED CHURCH**

Adapted from Maranatha B-P Church Newsletter - 14 June 2015

## **Introduction**

The modern era is a time of great theological ignorance, profound indifference, and spiritual declension (Hosea 4:6). Most of the denominations and churches which are generally referred to as conservative, Bible-believing and evangelical have different interpretations of the doctrine of salvation. The doctrines of sovereign grace have been abandoned as obsolete, unfair, unbiblical, and irrational. There is a great divide in the Christian world where it pertains to the understanding of the doctrine of salvation.

The Bible Presbyterian Church which has about 78 years of history traces its root to the doctrines of sovereign grace taught in the Bible which come to be known to us as Covenant Theology and Calvinism. It is opposed to Arminianism which has a different doctrinal basis. The Bible Presbyterian Church is traced also to the 16th century Protestant Reformation movement, especially under the Reformer John Calvin in Geneva and is committed to the propagation of the pure gospel and the vigilant defence of the most holy faith when it was started on 4 June 1937 by Dr Carl McIntire and others.

It would also be consistent with the teachings and stand of John Knox in Scotland and the English Puritan movement that influenced the drafting of the historic Westminster Confession of Faith in 17th century England. We need to know our roots, what we believe and why we believe.

## **The Sovereignty of God**

There are in reality only two types of religious thought. There is the religion of faith and the religion of works. We believe that what has been known in Church History as Calvinism is the purest and most consistent embodiment of the religion of faith, while that which has been known as Arminianism has been diluted and is an inconsistent and unstable form of Christianity. In other words, we believe that Christianity comes to its fullest and purest expression in the Reformed Faith.

In the early part of the 5th century these two types of religious thought came into direct conflict in a remarkably clear contrast as embodied in two 5th century theologians, Augustine and Pelagius. Augustine pointed men to God as the source of all true spiritual wisdom and strength, while Pelagius threw men back on themselves and said that they were able in their own strength to do all that God commanded, otherwise God would not command it. We believe that Arminianism represents a compromise between these two systems, but that while in its more evangelical form, as in early Wesleyanism, it approaches the religion of faith, it nevertheless does contain an element of incorrectness.

We are living in a day in which practically the historic Churches are being attacked from within by unbelief by the evil one. Many of them have already succumbed. And almost invariably the line of descent over the decades has been Calvinism to Arminianism, from Arminianism to Jewish legalism, Liberalism and then to Unitarianism (i.e. as opposed to Trinitarianism) and ecumenism and even extremism within the church. The history of Liberalism and Unitarianism shows that they deteriorate into a social gospel that is unsound and unbiblical. We are convinced that true Christianity is bound up with that system of theology historically called "Calvinism". Where the God-centred principles of Calvinism have been abandoned, there has been a strong tendency downward into the depths of man-centred naturalism or secularism. There is a great difference between biblical Calvinism and modernism.

The basic principle of Calvinism is the absolute sovereignty of God. This represents the purpose of the Triune God as absolute and unconditional, independent of the whole finite creation, and originating solely in the eternal counsel of His will. He appoints the course of nature and directs the course of history down to the minutest details. His decrees therefore are eternal, unchangeable, holy, wise and sovereign. They are represented in the Bible as being the basis of the divine foreknowledge of all future events and not conditioned by that foreknowledge or by anything originating in the events themselves (Romans 8:29-30).

Every thinking person readily sees that some sovereignty rules his life. He was not asked whether or not he would have existence, when or what or where he would be born, whether in the 21st century or before the Flood, whether male or female, race or nationality he or she is in. All of those things were sovereignly decided for him before he had any existence. It has been recognised by Christians in all ages that God is the Creator and Ruler of the world and that as such He is the ultimate source of all power that is found in the world. Hence nothing can come to pass apart from His sovereign will. Otherwise, He would not be truly GOD. And when we dwell on this truth we find that it involves considerations which establish the Calvinistic and disprove the Arminian position which is man-centred and arbitrary and contrary to Scripture.

By virtue of the fact that God has created everything that exists, He is the absolute Owner and final Disposer of all that He has made. He exerts not merely a general influence, but actually rules the affairs of men (Acts 4:24-28). Even the nations are as the small dust of the balance when compared with His greatness (Isaiah 40:12-17). Amid all the apparent defeats and inconsistencies of our human lives, God is actually controlling all things in undisturbed majesty. If God is excluded from the government of the world, then we have only a finite God but our God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable and all wise and powerful and omnipresent as well.

God can convert a sinner whenever He pleases and He does not need his consent (Ephesians 1:4). Cannot the Almighty, the omnipotent Ruler of heaven and earth, change the character of the creatures He has made without his cooperation? Absolutely He changed water into wine at Cana and converted Saul on the road to Damascus. Matthew 8:2 says, 'And behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.' And at a word his leprosy was cleansed. Let us not believe, as do the Arminians, that God cannot control the human will, or that He cannot regenerate a soul when He pleases. He is as able to cleanse the soul as the body.

If He chose He could raise up such a flood of Christian ministers, missionaries and workers of various kinds and could so work through His Holy Spirit, that the entire world would be converted in a short time. If He had purposed to save all men He could have sent hosts of angels to instruct them to do supernatural works on the earth. He could have worked marvellously in the heart of every person so that no one would have been lost.

Since evil exists only by His permission, He could, if He chose, blot it out of existence, His power in this respect was shown, for instance, in the work of the destroying angel who in one night slew all of the firstborn of the Egyptians (Exodus 12:19) and in another night slew 185,000 of the Assyrian army (2 Kings 19:35). It was shown when the earth opened and swallowed Korah and his rebellious allies (Numbers 16:31-35). King Herod was smitten and died a horrible death (Acts 12:23). In Daniel 4:34-35 we read that the Most High God's "dominion is an everlasting dominion and his kingdom from generation to generation; and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing and he doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and no one can stay his hand or say unto him, What doest thou?"

All of this brings out the basic principle of the Reformed Faith, which is the sovereignty of God. God created this world in which we find ourselves, He owns it and He is running it according to His own sovereign good pleasure. God has lost none of His power and it is highly dishonouring to Him to suppose that He is struggling along with the human race, doing the best He can to persuade men to do right, but unable to accomplish His eternal, unchangeable, holy wise and sovereign purpose as in open theism recently. This is contrary to the basic doctrines that undergird the five point of Calvinism.

Any system which teaches that the serious intentions of God can in some cases be defeated and that man, who is not only a creature but a sinful creature, can exercise veto power over the plans of Almighty God is in striking contrast to the biblical idea of His immeasurable exaltation compared to the weaknesses of humanity. God is unlimited in these and all other resources, and there are no unforeseen emergencies that can arise. To assume that His plan fails and that He strives to no effect is to reduce Him to the level of His creatures and make Him no God at all.

Christianity comes to its fullest expression in the Reformed Faith which exalts God and humbles man. The most important principle of the reformed faith, through the understanding of the five points of Calvinism, clearly concerns the way of salvation, is the summarised reformed doctrines of grace for our Church in its logical consistency. A professing Christian should know how and why his redemption has been accomplished and how it has been made effectual, besides following God who redeems him out of sin and depravity. The five points Calvinism are held generally by the Presbyterians, some independent churches, Reformed Churches and the reformed Baptists, while the five points of Arminianism held by largely the Methodists (although there are Calvinistic Methodists as well), Lutherans, Brethren, Charismatics or Pentacostals and some Baptists. The following is a summary of it during the historic Synod of Dort 1618-9.

## **The Five Points of Calvinism and Arminianism**

The five points of Calvinism and the five points of Arminianism arising out of the Dutch Remonstrance controversy at the historic Synod of Dort. The “Five Points” of Calvinism can be easily remembered by the acronym TULIP (the Dutch flower).

Some of the finest saints and missionaries are reformed like Whitefield, Spurgeon, Jonathan Edward, William Carey, Judson, Brainerd, Burns, Goforth, Robert McCheyne and Arthur Pink, Lloyd Jones and Machen among many others.

It is also instructive to be reminded that in the mind of the reformed believer, he humbly acknowledges that all men are dead spiritually (Ephesians 2:1-5), are either ignorant of or are against the truth, and have no love nor seek Jesus Christ (John 3:19-21). He dwells in darkness (John 1:4-5), has a heart of stone (Ezekiel 11:19), is helpless to save himself (Ezekiel 16:4-6), cannot repent on his own (Jeremiah 13:23), is a slave of Satan and sin (Acts 26:17-18) and cannot see or comprehend divine truth (1 Corinthians 2:14). This biblical fact may be offensive to the natural man but is unavoidable unless one is willing to ignore the Word of God. The doctrine of total depravity of man is important, for when it is properly understood, it proves that salvation is totally of God's grace and not of man's doing, to which all true Calvinists readily assent.

### **Conclusion**

A Church should be Apostolic, Biblical, Covenantal (or Calvinistic) and Confessional, Doctrinal, Evangelical and Fundamental in its beliefs. Ignorance of our doctrinal foundations is not bliss and we need to be grounded and rooted in the most holy faith which is the Reformed Biblical Faith of the Bible. The BP movement has been under attack from various quarters including dispensationalism, liberalism and extremism and we are not Arminian, ecumenical, charismatic nor liberal or extremist in our doctrinal stand. We need to be able to explain and defend the faith of our fathers and give an answer of the hope that is in us with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15). Let us be mindful of these vital biblical principles and live our lives according to the glorious biblical truths, trusting in God's sovereign grace and mercies alone till He returns and not on self or man-made dogma or whims and fancies.

*Rev Jack Sin*

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am** and **4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Thurs 9th July	<b>No Mid-Week Bible Study</b>		We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Sat 11th July	4pm <b>Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b> <i>Study on the Life of Joseph</i>		
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<b>Preacher</b>	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 05/07/2015</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jonathan <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Keene <b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Yetta <b>Sunday School:</b> Keene / Rachael <b>Lunch:</b> Hannah <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 12/07/2015</u></b></p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> John <b>Organist:</b> Anthony <b>Pianist:</b> Keene <b>Ushers:</b> Daniel / Tom <b>Sunday School:</b> Keene / Rachael <b>Lunch:</b> Maureen <b>Washing Up:</b> Volunteers <b>PA Crew:</b> Scott</p>
<b>Message</b>	The Christian in Society	Serving God while Serving Others	
<b>Text</b>	Colossians 4:1-6	John 17:5-6	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Pre-lunch Bible Study.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew, John, Sharon, Toby, Ellie.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for expecting mothers:</b> Magdalene, Helen.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Nana.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travel:</b> Sarah, Matthew, Yangfan.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister.</li> <li>• <b>Thank God for the safe arrival of baby Odelia Grace Poh.</b> Both Sharon and Odelia are doing well.</li> <li>• <b>Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology:</b> 7th-9th July 2015. Theme - "Pathway to Power".</li> </ul>			
<b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £1167.00, Lunch: £38.00 <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 25 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 15 (A) 2 (C)			

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 75

**Q: What is forbidden in the Eighth Commandment?**

*A: The Eight Commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate.*

Comment:

This commandment refers to *money* and *property*. It acknowledges that it is right and proper to gain money, and that it is wrong in a man to squander his own property, or to plunder another's. It commands us to work for the supply of our own needs, and to help others as well as ourselves to increase in wealth. And it forbids aught that would tend to hinder these ends.

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 12:17, Ephesians 4:28

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

**John 8:12**

### This Week

*"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."*

**John 10:11**

### Next Week

*"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"*

**John 11:25**